

Subject: Featured: United Church of Huntsville and Stewardship Webinar

From: Southeast Conference UCC (clwaldron@secucc.org)

To: michaelstroud@bellsouth.net;

Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2013 12:55 PM

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Don't forget to add tdowns@secucc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



FEATURE FOCUS

Featured Church Spotlight

We'll be featuring churches across the Conference and the work that they are doing in the newsletter and on the SEC website. Is there something exciting happening at your congregation that you'd like to share? [Let us know with an email.](#) We'd love to feature you!

Accessible Labyrinth and welcoming Pastoral Intern at United Church of Huntsville, Alabama

United Church of Huntsville, Alabama has undergone many changes in the past 12 years since the Rev. Dr. Robert Hurst became pastor. Over half of the membership is new since 2001. The church has incorporated alternatives to traditional worship and education and this summer alone has undertaken two unprecedented ventures.

First, on June 30, members unanimously voted to join with its neighboring congregation, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, to form a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in order to build a labyrinth on UCH's grounds in the coming future. Proposed by the clergy and parishioners of St. Stephen's Church, this labyrinth would be the first in the Huntsville-Madison County area to be fully accessible to handicapped persons.

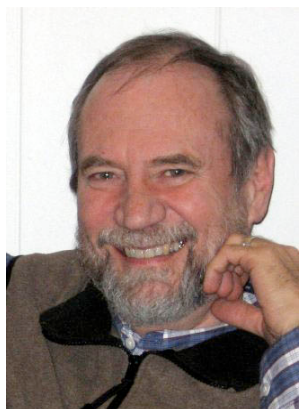


During July and August, United Church of Huntsville welcomes Bobby Kates as its first pastoral intern. Bobby is a member-in-discernment at Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, where he has been a parishioner since Michael Piazza's service as pastor. For the summer, Bobby returns to his hometown of Huntsville where he is participating in pastoral care, education, children's work, and preaching. Bobby grew up in Huntsville's First Baptist Church and

has lived in Texas for many years where he has mainly worked as an interior decorator. After his ordination, he hopes to serve small congregations, and one of the reasons he visited UCH was to get an idea of the differences in structure and programming between his 5,000-plus-member church and one of UCH's size. Bobby will return to Brite Divinity School (Texas Christian University) in Fort Worth, Texas, this fall to complete his Master of Divinity degree.

For more information on United Church of Huntsville, you can visit their webpage at www.uchurch.org

A word from Randy Hyvonen, our Interim Conference Minister



I started my service among you just one week ago, and while my head is still spinning as I try to learn many new things about life in the Southeast Conference. I can already state without reservations that I have "inherited" a talented staff, a fascinating mix of congregations, another broad piece of geography, and ample ministry challenges to reawaken brain cells that I feared were growing dormant in my brief retirement. I've also been reminded how challenging our populated, modern age has become. One simple example is all of the complexity involved in just finding a one room apartment to rent for 6-9 months. I've said to a few people that in Montana one can still do such things with a handshake (well, not really - but certainly not all of the prerequisite documents ... or the mind-numbing traffic to get places as one searches). So I've found that apartment, Karen (my wife) agrees with the choice, and I will be flying back to Montana on August 8 to attend my 50th high school class reunion ... and then she will accompany me back to Atlanta to join me in this next step of our faith journey.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to share ministry with you in the months ahead, and we look forward to meeting as many of you as is possible in that time. The Southeast Conference is an exciting, growing setting for the United Church of Christ: clearly in this place all are welcome ... and God is still speaking! Wishing you God's blessings and peace -- Randy

CONFERENCE NEWS

News from the Conference and Associations

Upcoming Ala-Tenn Association Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Alabama-Tennessee Association will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee at the Church of the Savior United Church of Christ. The meeting will begin on Friday, September 13, 2013, and conclude on Saturday afternoon, September 14, 2013. "Moving Forward" is our theme for this gathering.

Ecclesiastical Council

On Saturday, July 20th, 2013, the Ecclesiastical Council gathered at the Southeast Conference office to meet with four Members in Discernment, each of who were interviewed for Privilege of Call. During an all day meeting, the Ecclesiastical Council affirmed Charmaine Johnson of (Victory Church, UCC), Lacey Brown (Kirkwood UCC

Generosity Corner

Transform Your Life-Transform the World



Upcoming Stewardship Webinar designed for all UCC Churches!

- Designed for your Stewardship season this fall.
- When? August 29, 2013 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. It's a Webinar so you can participate from anywhere!
- Hosted by Debbie Spearman, Southeast Conference Coordinator and Presented by Ruben Swint, The Generosity Guy

currently serving at Central Congregational UCC), Drew Terry (Kirkwood UCC), Yelanda Collins (Community Congregational, UCC) to be "ordainable pending a call." As we celebrate their hard work, training, and commitment to ministry in the United Church of Christ, we ask for your support and prayers as they continue their journey.

This was the second gathering of the Ecclesiastical Council following the dissolution of the Georgia South Carolina Association. On this particular day, eight representatives, including Rev. Henrietta Andrews, who chairs the MID Committee, and Rev. Doug Farmer, the chair of License Committee, were present. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Clark, Chair of Commission of Ministry, comments, "the current way of doing the Ecclesiastical Council is a stop gap method until we have an opportunity to address the issue of how to handle the Ecclesiastical Councils in the future. We are hoping by year's end that we will have enough clarity to begin informing clergy and churches about all the new procedures." We are facing transitional times; and we ask for your prayers for the Commission of Ministry and all the Committees that make up the evolving new system.

PATHWAYS secures vital Carpenter Grant Funding

We are proud to announce that the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation has granted \$40,000 towards the ministry of PATHWAYS, the Leadership Formation Ministry of the Southeast Conference, UCC. The grant is for the duration of one year (July 2013 through June 2014) and will be used to provide quality theological education in equipping leaders for lay and authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. Many thanks to the Carpenter Foundation for their support! For more information about PATHWAYS, please visit www.tasc21.net.

Events around the UCC



Peace Village is a program to share an intergenerational, transformational model of ministry for children, youth, families, and whole congregations! Those who have a passion for Christian Education are encouraged to attend this exciting event, which is on October 3-4 at the Congregational Church of San Mateo, San Mateo, CA.

Registration is only \$50, and scholarships are available for travel and other needs. Please locate the scholarship form on the website and share it with others-there are funds available.

More information can be found here:

- All pastors and lay leaders interested in Stewardship are welcome
- Comes with one additional hour of free stewardship coaching
- For complete details, read more by [clicking here to visit our website](#). [Click here to download a flyer for the event](#).

Using QR Codes to increase GIVING in YOUR CONGREGATION

You've used those funny looking codes! Or if you haven't you've seen more and more of them pop up on flyers, t shirts, airport check in, etc.



They are called Quick Response Codes or QR Codes. By printing a QR Code on your church bulletin, you may offer a visitor or guest the opportunity to give by just using their smart phone. QRstuff.com is a website where you can find out more about how to use these codes. They offer a FREE QR code generator, as well as free trials for their affordable subscription options. www.QRstuff.com

Contact Debbie Spearman to get more information on E-Giving dspearman@secucc.org.

Witness for Justice



A message from the UCC Collegium on Environmental Justice

In this week's "Witness for Justice", the Collegium of Officers of the UCC wrote about "heeding the call for environmental responsibility" and explained the stance of General Synod to divest from investment in fossil fuels. "Witness for Justice" are weekly messages in the form of bulletin inserts, that can be used to highlight the various initiatives of Justice and Witness Ministries. You can [download the most recent bulletin](#)

www.ucc.org/peacevillage

Third Annual Retired Clergy/Spouse Retreat

The third annual informal gathering of Southern Region retirees and spouses will be held at the Blowing Rock Conference Center September 30 - October 2, 2013. You are invited to join past and present colleagues to share a time of conversation and worship. Dr. Edward Davis, Conference Minister of SOC will be present for conversation and fellowship along with Rev. Keith A Tussing, Major Gifts/Planned Giving Officer of The Pension Boards-UCC and Bill and Mary Ruth sharing their adventures in the Volunteer Service program of the UCC. More information can be found by [downloading the flyer here.](#)

National Disaster Ministries



Looking for a mission project? Church World Service (CWS) Kits are Needed!

Thanks to the great efforts of CWS communions such as the UCC, Church World Service has a good stock of CWS Hygiene Kits. But the stock of CWS School Kits, Baby Care Kits and Emergency Cleanup Buckets is very low.

More materials are needed to respond to pending requests and be ready for future emergencies. Information on various kits that may be compiled and donated to CWS may be found at <http://www.cwsglobal.org/get-involved/kits>.

CWS Kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to people in need around the world. The contents of each kit have been selected with care based on years of experience to make them as useful as possible, wherever and whenever they are sent.

If you have any questions, [you can read the CWS FAQ here](#) or call your CWS Regional Office toll-free at 888-297-2767.

Job Listing: Executive for UCC Disaster

[by clicking here.](#)

You can view other Witness for Justice messages by [clicking here.](#)



Far East Report Part II Reflection on Korea and Theological Education by Rev. Sarah Kim

Geographically, South Korea is a small peninsula located between Japan to its east and China to its west. The peninsula is divided into North and South, making South Korea a littoral state with three sides facing the ocean. Due to its geo-politically strategic location, Korea has been invaded some 900 times throughout its 5000 years of history. Today, the ideologically differing Koreas are the only two states that remain divided in the world after the ending of the Cold War over 20 years ago. The democratic South (ROK) has population of about 50 million people; the socialist North (DPRK) has about half of that number.

As a native of Seoul, I can go on and on about the long and dramatic history of Korea, especially in light of the growth of Christianity in the country, its economic achievements, and recent success in the global entertainment industry; but for the purposes of this report, I will focus on the nature of my visit. During a one-week stay before departing for China, I had the opportunity to visit Minjung Theology Institute, Hanbaek church, and Hanshin University's School of Theology, and Jesus Abbey, exploring prospects for implementing the Global Theological Education (GTE) program in this cross-cultural context. All but one destination was located in Seoul, the capital city of over 10 million people-the largest city proper among the OECD countries.

[Click here to read more about theological education and Korea on the PATHWAYS website!](#)

[Click here to read last month's reflection on theological education and China.](#)

Ministries

Florence Coppola, will be retiring on September 30, wrapping up 35 years of faithful service with the United Church of Christ. The UCC is seeking a new Executive for UCC Disaster Ministries to succeed Florence in this ministry. You can find the [position description for the Executive for UCC Disaster Ministries](#) and share it with those you believe may be interested in applying for this position. For inquiries, please contact Susan Sanders. You can [email her by clicking here](#).



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Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

NEW Conference Website!

New Website and Connection Program

What's New?

The Southeast Conference Website has a new design, easy access to news and events, and resizes to fit your screen, whether you are using a phone, iPad, tablet, or laptop. We'd like to make this even more interactive for churches in the Conference!

Congregations can now appoint members to be "Social Networking Partners" with the ability to post news, stories, and event information directly to the website to promote what your community is doing and connect with other SEC congregations!

How does your church get connected?

Contact Chris Lyman Waldron at clwaldron@secucc.org or you can call the Conference Office. You'll be able to sign up for training on how to use these exciting new tools.



For More Information on Above Ads >> [Click the Links Below](#)

A. [SEC Offices](#) / B. [PATHWAYS](#) / C. [Capital Campaign](#)

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